

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-8 were pending in the referenced application. Dependent claims 9-12 have been added by this reply. Claims 1 and 8 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-5 and 7 include allowable subject matter.

Amendments to the Specification

Paragraph [0012] of the published specification⁴ has been amended to clarify that the references to C1-C8 and the following connection pads: VCC pad, GND pad, VPP pad, RST pad, CLK pad, and I/O pad are not shown in the Figures and are part of the ISO 7816 standard. Support for these amendments may be found in paragraph [0012] of the published specification.

Paragraphs [0015] and [0021] of the published specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added by any of the aforementioned amendments.

⁴ Published specification US 2006/0097050 is the published version of the originally filed U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/530,962.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 5, and 8 have been amended by this reply. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 5, and 8 may be found, for example, in paragraph [0014] of the published specification. Further, new claims 9-12 have been added by this reply. Support for new claims 9-12 may be found, for example, in paragraph [0014] of the published specification. Further, claim 2 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Finally, claims 1 and 5 have been amended to address an antecedent basis error. No new matter has been added by any of the aforementioned amendments.

Specification Objections

Paragraphs [0015] and [0021] have been amended to address the typographical errors. Accordingly, this objection is now moot.

Drawing Objections

Paragraph [0012] of the published specification has been amended to clarify that the references to C1-C8 and the following connection pads: VCC pad, GND pad, VPP pad, RST pad, CLK pad, and I/O pad are not shown in the Figures and are part of the ISO 7816 standard. Applicants assert that the aforementioned amendments to the specification renders this objection moot. Further, Applicants assert that the ISO7816 standard is well known and, thus, the aforementioned features of the standard do not need be shown in the drawings. In view of the above, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 5 has been amended to correct the antecedent basis error noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 2. Thus, there is now sufficient antecedent basis for all elements in dependent claim 3. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,210,193 (“Ito”). To the extent that this rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present (See M.P.E.P. § 2131). Applicants believe that Ito fails to disclose all the limitations of the amended independent claims.

Specifically, independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to clarify that “wherein at least one of the first holding element and the second holding element is movable in a lateral direction.” Applicants assert that Ito does not disclose holding elements movable in a lateral direction. The Examiner has attempted to equate the bending pieces (23) of Ito with the holding elements of the claimed invention. See Office Action mailed July 12, 2007, p. 4. However, the bending pieces (23)

merely act as guides to slidily receive a card and are not movable; rather, they are attached in a fixed position to a side wall (20) on the main body (19) (see Ito, col. 4, ll. 24-40 and FIG. 1).

In view of the above, Ito fails to disclose all the limitations of amended independent claims 1 and 8. Thus, amended independent claims 1 and 8 are patentable over Ito. Dependent claim 2 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ito in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication Serial No. 2003/0178486 ("Teng"). To the extent that this rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 6 depends from amended independent claim 1. As discussed above, Ito fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of amended independent claim 1. Further, Teng fails to teach or suggest that which Ito lacks as evidenced by the fact that the Examiner has only relied on Teng to teach a "USB connector for USB type communication" *See Office Action mailed July 12, 2007, pp. 5-6.*

In view of the above, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Ito and Teng. Dependent claim 6 is patentable over Ito and Teng for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims 9-12 have been added by this reply. New claims 9-12 depend from amended independent claim 1. Thus, new claims 9-12 are patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants believe this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 09669/063001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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